

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408

14 AUG 1978

[redacted]  
Executive Secretary  
CIA Information Review Committee

Dear [redacted]

I have just reviewed the 6 semiannual reports the Agency submits to ICRC.

The reduction in number of officials with original classification authority is commendable (RCN 1515 - GSA-SA).

However, I am concerned about the status of appeals in mandatory review cases (RCN 1222 - GSA-SA). The report shows no decisions on any of the 20 appeals the Agency had for action during the last 6-month reporting period, despite the fact 50% of the cases were received by the Agency over a year ago. One case is over 5 years old. This situation is not in keeping with either the letter or the spirit of Executive Order 11652.

I understand your problems with the flood of requests for information under the FOI and Privacy Acts, as well as E.O. 11652. And I know you adhere to the policy of "first in, first out." However, I believe there must be a way to get these cases moving. For example, in the case of Mr. Belair, whose appeal was received in March 1973, would not a denial be more appropriate than continued indecision?

I would greatly appreciate your personal attention to this matter. Would you let me know what you decide? My staff and I stand ready to assist.

Sincerely,

[redacted]  
Executive Director

*After checking the status of these cases I called [redacted] and assured him we were working on them as rapidly as we could, though some were hung up in litigation. He was relieved to learn we were closing the [redacted] case with a final denial.*

8/29/78

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1		8/10	<i>J</i>
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3	<i>AAI</i>	8/10	<i>[Signature]</i>
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5	Chief/IPS <i>DX-2</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>
6	<i>CES-AR</i>		
	ACTION	INDIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
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<b>Remarks:</b>  <div style="margin-left: 40px;">5. <u>ACTION</u></div> <div style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Gene: May I have a status report on these cases, please?</i></div> <div style="margin-left: 40px;">cc: <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"></span></div>			
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<b>Remarks:</b> <p>For your ICRC file</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 180px; margin: 10px auto;"></div>			
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